

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 208035  
ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EROWELL:GMD  
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE  
S/S:DANDERSON

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Z 311422Z AUG 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208035

E.O. 11652: ADS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), IT

SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF SALT TALKS AND CANCELLATION OF  
SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER TRIP TO VIENNA AND ROME

1. PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL  
MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI:

"DEAR MR. MINISTER:

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE AGREED THAT THE  
MEETING SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 7 IN VIENNA TO DIS-  
CUSS LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS  
WILL BE DEFERRED TO WASHINGTON BEGINNING ON SEPTEMBER 22,  
IN ORDER TO ENABLE BOTH SIDES TO COMPLETE THEIR PREPARATIONS  
FOR THE MEETING. IN ADDITION I ALSO MUST BE IN WASHINGTON  
FOR THE CEREMONIES SEPTEMBER 6 TO 8 ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
SIGNING OF THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATIES.

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, UNFORESEEN AT THE TIME I ACCEPTED  
YOUR KIND INVITATION TO STOP IN ROME SEPTEMBER 9 AND 10, I  
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AM NOT NOW ABLE TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE IN SEPTEMBER. I WAS  
ANTICIPATING WITH PLEASURE THE CHANCE TO TALK WITH YOU  
IN ROME AND I GREATLY REGRET MISSING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO  
ENJOY YOUR GENEROUS HOSPITALITY.

I APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THIS MATTER, AND LOOK  
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU LATER IN SEPTEMBER DURING THE UNITED

NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD  
ALSO CONVEY MY PERSONAL REGRETS TO PRESIDENT LEONE AND  
PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI.

SINCERELY, CYRUS VANCE"

2. CANCELLATION OF SEPTEMBER 5-10 TRIP TO EUROPE AND POST-  
PONEMENT OF TALKS WITH GROMYKO WILL BE ANNOUNCED SIMUL-  
TANEOUSLY IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. ANNOUNCEMENT WILL NOT  
REFER SPECIFICALLY TO ROME STOP.

3. AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED WHEN PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT  
MADE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Subject:** POSTPONEMENT OF SALT TALKS AND CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER TRIP TO VIENNA AND ROME  
**TAGS:** OVIP, IT, (VANCE, CYRUS)  
**To:** ROME  
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**Review Markings:**  
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